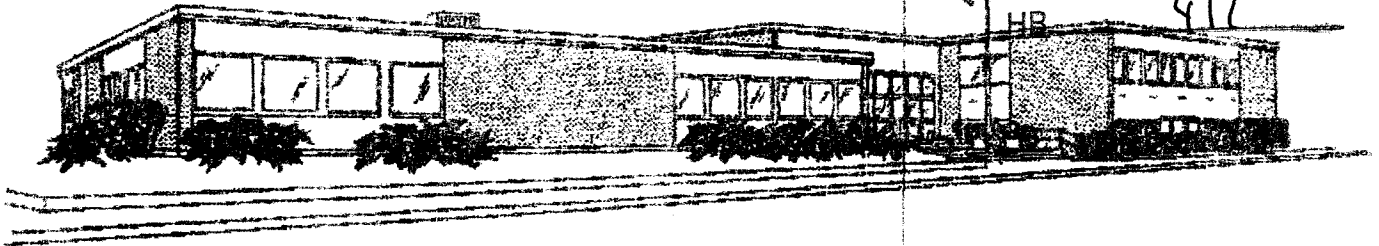


DATE 2/13/09

HB 411



Office of:  
County Commissioners  
Phone 377-3862  
Adam Gartner, Chairman  
Doug Buxbaum  
James Skillestad

**County of Dawson**  
207 W. Bell  
Glendive, MT 59330

Office of:  
Clerk and Recorder  
Phone 377-3058  
Nancy Howard

Office of:  
County Treasurer  
Phone 377-3025  
Vickie Bole

February 10, 2009  
To: House Committee on Natural Resources

We would like to go on record supporting House Bill 411, the Flood Damage Mitigation Assistance Program.

Dawson County has been struggling with the problem of floodplain planning for many years. This bill would offer relief in a form that would allow us to move forward for the first time. Currently we are being held back by outrageous costs for studies required by the Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). It is impossible for most counties to fund a study then begin to pay for the construction costs associated with flood mitigation.

Federal agencies come in to our communities and inform us that these problems must be dealt with. However, they do not offer a funding mechanism to alleviate the problem. Economic growth is literally left at a standstill. We cannot afford to resolve the problem and until we do, our economic base cannot grow.

Your support for this Bill would help many communities in Montana. As floodplain maps are reviewed, many cities and towns will be placed in the same Catch 22 as Dawson County and the City of Glendive.

Thank You.

Adam Gartner, Chairman  
Dawson County Commissioners